



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

MAR 28 2018

ARCHAEOLOGY COMMENTS

Phase I Archaeological Survey Recommendation 16PR01807 – MacDonnell Heights Town Center Mixed Use Development

Your project is located in an archaeologically sensitive area. Prior archaeological surveys were conducted for the property on the north side of your project area, on the south side of your project area, and a linear survey passed through your project area. Two of the three prior surveys identified Pre-contact Native American archaeological sites, one of which is within your project area. Therefore, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) recommends a Phase I archaeological survey for all portions of the project that will involve ground disturbance, unless substantial prior ground disturbance can be documented. If you consider the entire project area to be disturbed, documentation of the disturbance will need to be reviewed by OPRHP. Examples of disturbance include mining activities and multiple episodes of building construction and demolition.

Documentation of ground disturbance should include a description of the disturbance with confirming evidence. Confirmation can include current photographs and/or older photographs of the project area which illustrate the disturbance (approximately keyed to a project area map), past maps or site plans that accurately record previous disturbances, or current soil borings that verify past disruptions to the land. Agricultural activity is not considered to be substantial ground disturbance.

Please note that in areas with alluvial soils or fill archaeological deposits may exist below the depth of superficial disturbances such as pavement or even deeper disturbances, depending on the thickness of the alluvium or fill. Evaluation of the possible impact of prior disturbance on archaeological sites must consider the depth of potentially culture-bearing deposits and the depth of planned disturbance by the proposed project.

A Phase I survey is designed to determine the presence or absence of archaeological sites or other cultural resources in the project's area of potential effect. The OPRHP can provide standards for conducting cultural resource investigations upon request. Cultural resource surveys and survey reports that meet these standards will be accepted and approved by the OPRHP.

Our office does not conduct archaeological surveys. A 36 CFR 61 qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct the Phase I survey. Many archaeological consulting firms advertise their availability in the yellow pages. The services of qualified archaeologists can also be obtained by contacting local, regional, or statewide professional archaeological organizations. Phase I surveys can be expected to vary in cost per mile of right-of-way or by the number of acres impacted. We encourage you to contact a number of consulting firms and compare examples of each firm's work to obtain the best product.

Please also be aware that a Section 233 permit from the New York State Education Department (SED) may be necessary before archaeological fieldwork is conducted on State-owned land. If any portion of the project includes the lands of New York State you should contact the SED before initiating survey activities. The SED contact is Christina B. Rieth and she can be reached at (518) 402-5975. Section 233 permits are not required for projects on private land.

If you have any questions concerning archaeology, please contact Tim Lloyd at 518-268-2186 or Timothy.Lloyd@parks.ny.gov

Division for Historic Preservation

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